

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 14 in accordance with the following:

1-13 (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for identifying a hub in a communication network having a plurality of hubs connecting communication terminals to ~~switches in~~ a switching system and using a time-slot-oriented data format formed from a periodic sequence of channel-oriented information segments for data transmission between the communication terminals via the hubs and the switching system, said method comprising:

associating each of the hubs with an unambiguous address ~~not assigned to a switch in the switching system in the communication network;~~

requesting the address of a respective hub by the switching system via a request message addressed to one of the communication terminals connected to the respective hub;
and

transmitting the address of ~~a~~ the respective hub via the communication network to the switching system in an agreed information segment upon the request.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 14, wherein the request is made during a message transmission from the switching system to the communication terminal.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 14, wherein the request is made during a message transmission from the communication terminal to the switching system.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 16, wherein the address is transmitted in a monitor channel transmitting configuration information of the time-slot-oriented data format.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

indicating the request by transmitting an agreed bit combination in a signaling channel of the time-slot-oriented data format.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of: indicating the request by a simplified protocol being transmitted in the signaling channel or a monitor channel, which transmits configuration information concerning the time-slot-oriented data format.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 19, wherein the time-slot-oriented data format is a standardized Integrated Services Digital Network Oriented Modular Interface data format.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of: indicating the request by bits transmitted via monitor status channels of the Integrated Services Digital Network Oriented Modular Interface data format to the hub being identical.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 21, wherein the address length is one of, one byte and an integral multiple thereof.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22, wherein a data transmission via the communication network takes place on the basis of the ATM data format.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 23, wherein a bi-directional conversion is made between the time-slot-oriented data format and the ATM data format for transmitting data via the communication network by the switching system and the hub.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 24, wherein the bi-directional conversion between the time-slot-oriented data format and the ATM data format takes place in accordance with a first ATM adaptation layer AAL-Type I.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 25, wherein the bi-directional conversion between the time-slot-oriented data format and the ATM data format takes place in accordance with a second ATM adaptation layer AAL-Type 2.